WINTER ★ SOLDIER

A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6 ★★★

PRESSURED, PERSECUTED BY MILITARY

POW SUICIDE

When the POWs first returned home the Nixon Administration paraded them around as a justification for his war policies. They were given new cars, tens of thousands of dollars, Presidential dinners and prime time on television to tell of the barbaric Vietnamese and of their wonderful President Nixon.

But the crack in the POW's story began to appear as more of the POWs began to talk. Naval Captain Wilbur, among others, said that he had never been tortured or seen anyone tortured. POWs said they were against the war in Vietnam and against it here in the United States.

The Administration had to move to silence the truth. The most outspoken were officers, but charging high ranking officers would cause trouble. So on May 29, an Air Force career officer, Colonel Guy brought charges of aiding the enemy against eight enlisted men.

The public and the press picked up on the fact that no officer was charged and the eight were infantry men. People began to ask embarrassing questions. So on June 26, charges were brought against two officers, Captain Wilbur one of them.

Two days later on June 28th, Sgt. Abel Kavanaugh, one of the eight enlisted men charged, killed himself. The pressure of the United States government and military became too much for him. His wife, Sandra, stated that "He went to Vietnam and the North Vietnamese people kept him alive for five years. Then he came home and his own people killed him." Colonel Guy noted that, "It was regrettable."

After feeling the public reaction to the suicide of Kavanaugh, the Pentagon dropped the charges against the eight enlisted men several days later.

SGT. ABEL"LARRY" KAVANAUGH

The government admitted responsibility for Kavanuagh's death by dropping the charges against the other POWs. "The dismissal of these charges make it clear that the government realizes its responsibility of Larry's death," said Mrs. Sandra Kavanaugh. "In bringing these charges, the government mur dered my husband and caused indes cribable hardship in the lives of the other POWs."

The government doesn't care about the POWs any more that they do about the rest of the Vietnam-era veterans. The pressure brought upon Brother Kavanaugh by the government forced him to kill himself. We are saddened because we understand his experiences.

In Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier, we saw ourselves labeled as 'cowards' and 'liars' like the charged POWs for speaking the truth about Indochina. We remember being arrested for asking the government to end the war and being heard when we demanded its end.

In August of 1971, one of the U.S. captured servicemen sent us the following message, "We believe the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Vietnamese people care more about our lives than our own President, Mr. Nixon, who seems to be worried about one thing - and that, that he doesn't want to be the first President to lose a war. For if our President would please wake up and face reality, he'd realize that this war has all ready been lost for quite some time. And nothing is going to change history."

Since this statement was made more than 100 Americans became POWs, more than 4,000 servicemen were killed, and more than 400,000 Indochinese became victims. Also, two POWs were killed within 60 days of their homecoming.

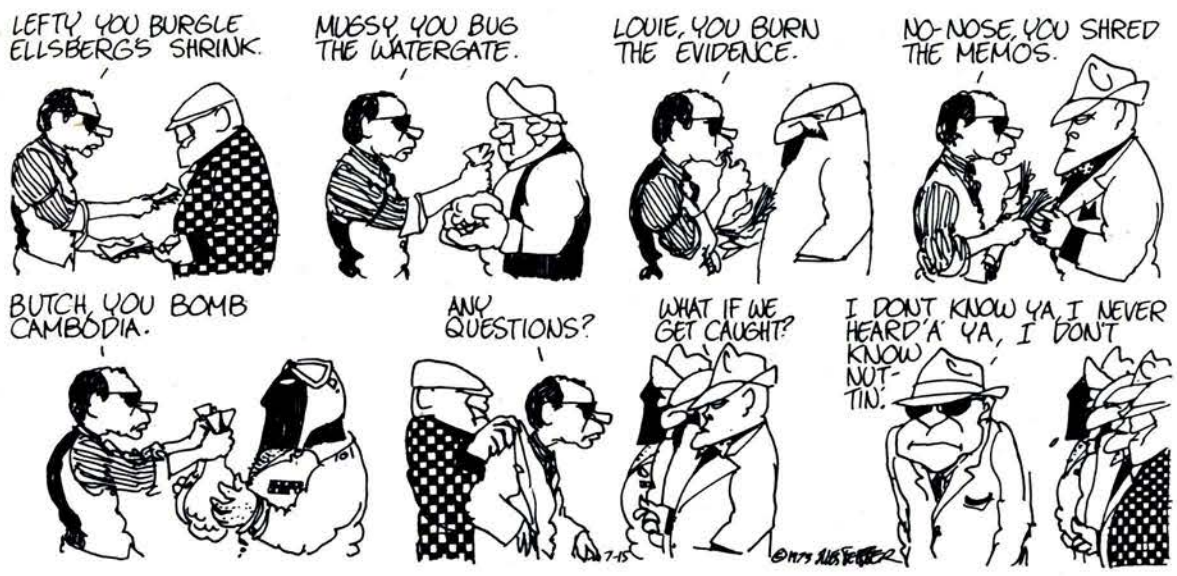
And the bombing and the war continue.

UNITY - Struggle - VICTORY

Captain Walter Wilbur - still charged

THE PLUMERS FLUSHED OUT

WATERGATE



In late June of 1970, Richard Nixon sought to establish his own personal domestic espionage unit. John W. Dean was transferred from the Justice Dept. to head the unit under the cover of White House Counsel. While in the Justice Dept., he had specialized in infiltration and undercover work in radical groups. Ehrlichman staff aide John Caulfield was appointed as Dean's deputy. The original planning meeting was attended by the FBI, CIA, National Security Agency (NSA), the Justice Dept., and others. FBI director J. Edgar Hoover then vetoed the plan as it called for clandestine domestic operations by the CIA which is illegal and similar activities by other agencies which included authorized burglaring and wire-tapping against both U.S. citizens and foreign embassies.

Even with Hoover's veto, Nixon had no worries about being able to implement the plan. Since taking office in 1969, the number two positions of some of these agencies had been taken over by Nixon 'loyalists', i.e. William Colby (CIA), Thomas Sullivan (FBI), etc. Nixon had no problems with the NSA as it's chairman was Henry Kissinger; or the Justice Dept. as it was headed by long-time friends John Mitchell, Richard Kleindeinst, Robert Mardian and Henry Peterson.

To get around Hoover's veto, the White House merely led Hoover to believe that the plan had been shelved and the unit was then hidden in the White House stronghold, the Justice Dept., given the name of Inter-Departmental Information Unit and placed under the control of the Internal Security Division which Mardian headed.

Here's how the unit functioned. Intelligence data was received by all the various agencies, passed along thru regular channels within each agency, and when it reached the unit's contact man in each agency, the data was then rechanneled to the unit's central gathering point in Mardian's office. Mardian's office then passed along the information to Dean and Caulfield in the White House where it was then funneled to Charles Colson, Emil Krogh, G. Gordon Liddy, James McCord and others working either in the White House or in CREEP.

However, when the data was received from Mardian's office by the White House, it was often severely distorted or else totally fabricated. Nixon believed certain things to be true of the victims of the espionage and when the information received didn't substantiate it, Nixon believed that the agencies were falling down on the job and criticized them for it. So in order to please their "commander-in-chief", Mardian, Guy Goodwin, and others deliberately forged the data they passed on to the White House.

These falsified intelligence reports were used as the basis for all the criminal acts committed by members of the White House, CREEP, and agents of the participating agencies. Clandestine operations were directed against the Canadian embassy in an attempt to obtain information about U.S. draft resisters, the Chilean embassy to steal documents pertaining to the ITT/CIA scandal regarding Chile, and at least one Arab embassy suspected of giving financial aid to the Black Panther Party, along with other embassies suspected of giving aid to the Panthers, the Weathermen, and VVAW/WSO. In late June of 1972 John Caulfield was ordered by Colson to burglarize the Brookings Institute which was planning to publish a critical study of the Vietnam War; and when Caulfield couldn't gain entry as security was too tight, Colson then instructed Caulfield to plant a fire-bomb in the building and steal the documents in the ensuing confusion.

Wholesale burglaries were committed all over the country of offices of movement lawyers working on the defense of radicals on trial resulting from grand juries led by Guy Goodwin, chief hatchet-man for the Justice Dept. and full participant in the 'special unit.' The burglaries that have come to light so far include the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, the office of an attorney for the VVAW/WSO Gainesville 8, various offices connected with the defense of the Seattle 7, the Chicago Weathermen, Detroit 13, and the Harrisburg 7, all of which, with the exception of Ellsberg, were being prosecuted also by Goodwin; and finally the office of Dade County attorney Richard Gerstein who was investigating the secret CREEP campaign funds that were 'laundered' in Mexico and then deposited in a Miami bank.

It is hopeful that as time goes on, the continuing investigations into the criminal activities of this unit will uncover more incidents such as these in order to give us a much clearer picture of how wide-spread their activities were. But from what we know even now, we can see that Nixon had planned from the first day in office back in 1969 to completely control the government of the United States by placing 'loyalists' in key positions. The number-two men in almost every governmental agency including the departments within the cabinet, the Pentagon and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, every intelligence agency both military and civilian, the Justice Dept.; in short every agency under the control of the executive branch and then some, were 'Nixon Loyalists." All were in a position to seize the top spot of their respective agencies at the proper time.

What really is, or was, Nixon's final goal? And has the Watergate scandal and subsequent disclosures stopped his plans, even temporarily? Perhaps Senator Sam Ervin best summed up the situation when he said, "These people had the same mentality employed by the Gestapo in Nazi Germany." There's no doubt they have the mentality of the Gestapo. What's really dangerous is they also have the politics of the Gestapo to go along with it.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Ever wonder about who joins VVAW/WSO? The following is an interview with three members of the Chicago chapter: Ron & Michele Ghisolf and their 18 month-old son, Derek. The Ghisolfs live in an attic apartment on Chicago's near Northwest side. Ron works with his father and Michele goes to school part time after watching over Derek all day. Michele is on the steering committee of the Chicago chapter and they hold meetings at their apartment. The chapter office is located in their "livingroom" and they both work hard in VVAW/WSO.

Ron grew up in Chicago in a middle-class family where his father owns his own business. Ron doesn't see anything special about his childhood; like most kids he hated school. "I didn't want to be programmed for some job, just learn what was goin' on." After high school he was really gung-ho, wanting to join the Army and go Airbourne Special Forces (too many John Wayne movies). However he was lucky because his older brother was already in the service and laid down a heavy rap to Ron about what the military was all about. The main thing was that being Special Forces was going to get him killed and that was something Ron didn't want to happen. In addition, his brother told him about military oppression and that didn't sit too well. Like most guys, Ron did not have much choice about what to do after high school. It was either go to college (if you had the money) or get a job and get drafted (in the good old days of the draft). So Ron decided to volunteer for the draft.

The military is not dumb (if you don't know what they are up to) and they told Ron that he had a good chance of going into the infantry if he was drafted. They conned him into signing up for another year under the illusion that he would get the job of his choice. Another 3 year man captured. At that point Ron did not care one way or another about the war in Vietnam. In fact, he wanted to go to Nam to "find out what it was all about." In July of 1969 Ron was sent to the Americal Division as a mechanic, stationed in Chu Lai.

It was in Vietnam that Ron became deeply anti-war and anti-military. Ron had a recurring fantasy that "...if we were overrun by the NLF, in the confusion I would run right to the lifers tent and off as many of them as I could."

While on R&R in Hawaii, Ron married his childhood sweetheart, Michele, on Vatentine Day 1970. They had lived near each other for many years and as Michele put it, "We always knew that we would get married one day, so then was as good as any." It was in Hawaii that Ron thought of deserting to Sweden but Michele talked him out of it. "I even had jobs checked out and routes all together for it," said Ron.

Michele grew up in Chicago's infamous Cabrini-Greens Projects in a poor family of 8. Asked about her feelings on the war before Ron went overseas, she said, "I wasn't really concerned. The war just didn't touch my life." Michele got involved with anti-war activities thru Ron who was always subscribing her to underground papers. As she read more and more about the military and the war, she began to work against it.

Ron joined VVAW/WSO in spring of 1972 after the bombing and mining of North Vietnam. Ron joined because, "I felt something had to be done about the shit in the military and about the war. VVAW was the only real active group around that I could relate to and it had a lot of energy. I felt that vets and GIs told the truth about the war and that America must know the truth about what's going on. On top of that, I really wanted to help other vets who were fucked up by the war."

Michele joined because, "I wanted to know what Ronnie was doing. He kept going to meetings and I wondered what they were up to. I feel that women must become part of what's goin' on and that wives and girlfriends of vets have to help. I also wanted to educate myself about what Ronnie and others like him had seen. I wanted to know what other women were doing in VVAW."

Now, both are working to build up their chapter and continue the work of VVAW/WSO. "I think more women have to become involved in the organization," said Michele. "Afterall, I think of myself as something more than just a housewife. I have things to fight for. I think women have to work with the men in their lives to fight for the things that should be ours. We have to share in the responsibilities of living, on equal terms. Women have to understand what really happened in Vietnam. I have a young son and he is going to fight in another Vietnam. I'm working to see that Vietnam is a lesson learned, not a mistake to be forgotten."

Ron sees much work ahead. "I know that the American people have not yet learned the truth behind Vietnam. I have to continue to work against what is being done in this country to my brothers and sisters, and the American people must be made to realize what the policies were that led to Vietnam. The government is not going to tell the truth. Its up to the people who know it to tell the people and to organize. This country needs a change, to what I'm not sure, but it needs to."

As Michele put it, "People walking around pissed off won't get anything done unless they get together."

GIs In The Struggle

VVAW/WSO BUSTED IN JAPAN

Once again, government harassment has befallen the VVAW/WSO active-duty chapter in Iwakuni Japan. As if the recent off-limits restriction placed on the Hobbit coffeehouse wasn't enough, the command at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni has gone one step further by arresting six Marines (VVAW/WSO members) as they distributed copies of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th.

One of the station's Commanding Officers apprehended Pvt. Dan Planty, Pfc. Bobby Monfort, and L/Cpl. Paul Norman for circulating the Declaration among the spectators at a 4th of July track meet. Shortly after that, Pfc. Edward Shepherd, Pfc. William Cox, and L/Cpl. Carl Badmington were taken into custody as they were handing the document to servicemen and fam ilies leaving the base for the day.

These Marines had requested permission from the Station Commander to make the distribution in commemoration of the holiday. However, on July 3rd, Norman was informally advised that permission had been denied, with no reason being given.

The charges against the six allege a violation of Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. That article prohibits "all disorders and neglects to the prejudice of good order and discipline (and) all conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces." VVAW/WSO questions any command which feels that reading our Declaration can be qualified as a discredit to the armed forces.

Ironically, Rear Admiral W. Rogers said in his Independence Day message to Navy and Marine troops in Japan that the Declaration "holds as true today as it did the day it was written. . . . The Declaration of Independence is a cherished document through which all Americans are obligated to preserve our heritage of freedom." He called upon all Americans to "rededicate themselves to the principles on which our nation was founded."

From the action taken against these six Marines, we can assume that Adm. Rogers doesn't take his own words seriously. Maybe all of the command hierarchy should take a closer look at the praised document. By doing so, they would discover that their action taken against these Marines directly violates the Declaration's principles, and is an act of blatant repression -- a far cry from "our heritage of freedom."

CARRIER BASED IN JAPAN

With the signing of the peace treaty in Vietnam, Nixon has been going ahead with his doctrine of reducing the number of ground troops in Asia, while making American presence felt just as strongly in other ways. As Admiral Zumwalt says, "...we will need to keep some evidence of power in sight."

Throughout the Third World, the aircraft carrier is that "evidence of power." The decision to home port the USS Midway in Yokosuka, Japan is the first concrete step in such a "post-Vietnam" strategy. Carriers make sense, from military planners points of view. As Norm Polmar of Jane's Fighting Ships says: "5,000 people floating into a harbor tells you the US is interested as hell in the area....It says power and interest, we have the power to help you or kill you, you bastard."

"The Pentagon today announced that the carrier USS Midway would be based at Yokosuka, Japan, starting next spring. This is believed to be the first time a carrier has been assigned to a home port overseas."
-- New York Times, Dec. 16

Why Yokosuka, Japan? In the far east, the 7th Fleet has 3 important bases: Subic (Philippines), and Sasebo and Yokosuka in Japan. Among these three, only Yokosuka drydock number 6 is capable of repairing 60,000-70,000 ton vessels (the Midway is 51,000 tons. Dry dock 6 is also the only dock which is to be exclusively used by the US. Atsugi Naval Station, a servicing station for carriers, is already beginning construction to handle the extra planes the Midway will bring.

Economically speaking, the Navy is hoping to be able to effect the home-porting with a minimum of expense and new construction of facilities. Since one of the major reasons for the cut-back of overseas bases is the tremendous dollar flow caused, and since this won't be changed much by porting a carrier there, they want to try to get by with existing facilities. It'll never work.

A strong movement in opposition to the proposed home-porting has developed, coordinated by a coalition of new-left groups in Yokosuka. There is complete understanding of the implications of the Midway coming to Japan. A recent poll showed 67% of Yokosuka's young people opposed the base.

Since the announcement of the home-porting plans, there have been demonstrations several times weekly in Yokosuka. Labor groups, student groups, broad-based citizen's groups, have all joined them.

There are also frequent actions carried out jointly by VVAW/WSO/New People's Center and the coalition of Japanese groups. GIs are unconstitutionally denied the right to demonstrate overseas so we have made signs and placards for the demonstrations. We in VVAW/WSO in Yokosuka completely support our Japanese sisters and brothers; we think we all should be sent home, instead of more US military people coming here!

AMNESTY FOR VETERANS

DISCHARGE UPGRADING

In most discussions on amnesty, attention is focused upon the exiles and long-term AWOL men, who, expatriate or underground, cannot return until the threat of punishment (prison, brig or stockade) and punitive discharge is removed. For some of these men, and the people around them, amnesty is an issue of totality--the conditions and conduct of their lives. The issue is largely defined and identified in terms of these groups, and this is reflected, clearly, in the official government line on the amnesty question.

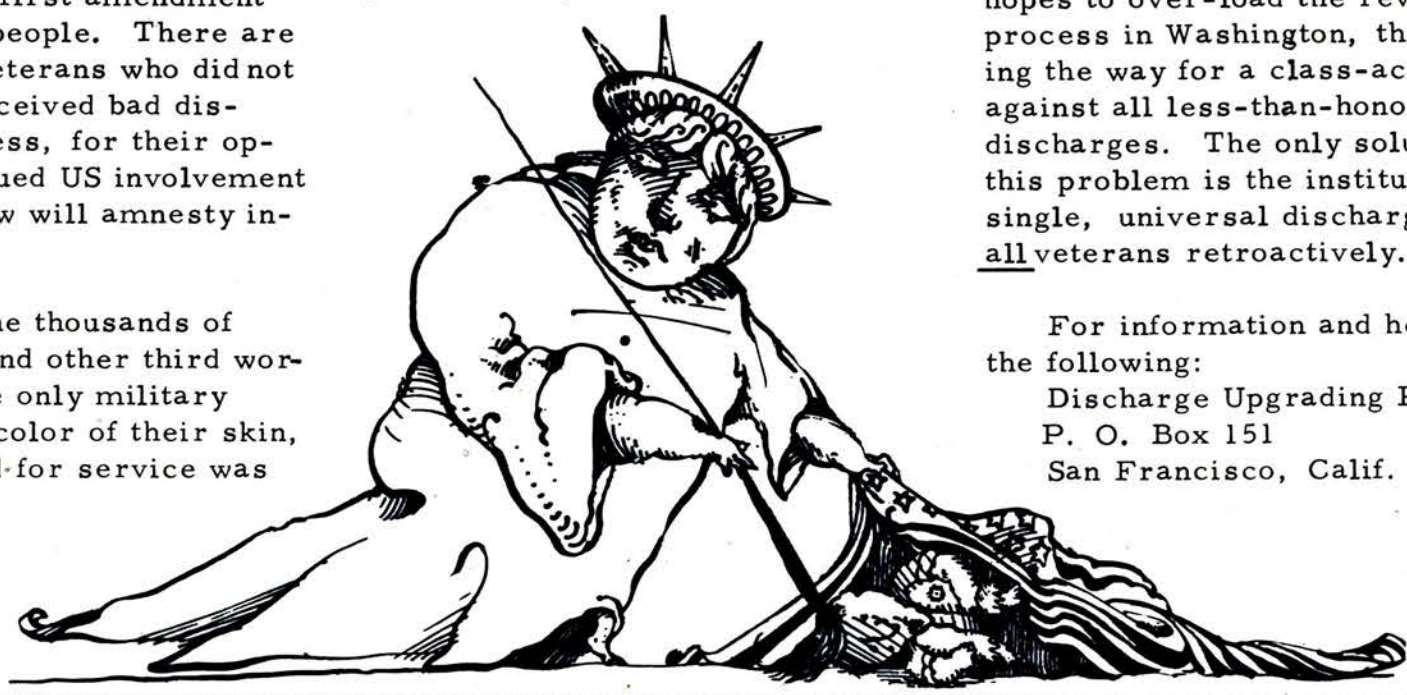
But what of the veterans who have already received war-related bad discharges? In the highly polarized discussion of amnesty, the veterans who returned from exile or resumed their civilian identities to face the consequences of military justice have almost disappeared from view. These are the men and women who have already experienced the military judicial "process" because of their opposition to the Indochina War They have only bad discharges to show for their terms of military service.

We are all familiar with instances of people who were drummed out of a service for the "crime" of speaking out against the war, as part of the military's unceasing campaign against the first amendment rights of servicepeople. There are nearly 200,000 veterans who did not go AWOL, but received bad discharges nonetheless, for their opposition to continued US involvement in Indochina. How will amnesty include them?

And what of the thousands of black, chicano, and other third world veterans whose only military "crime" was the color of their skin, and whose reward for service was a bad discharge? Recent studies (The Task Force on the Administration of Military Justice) have shown that black/third world servicepeople have long received a disproportionate percentage of bad discharges, substantially higher than their white counterparts. The numerous examples of overt and casual racism in the military are frequently made complete by a bad discharge: minority veterans who are ordinarily disadvantaged in obtaining suitable employment become social untouchables. When will their amnesty be?

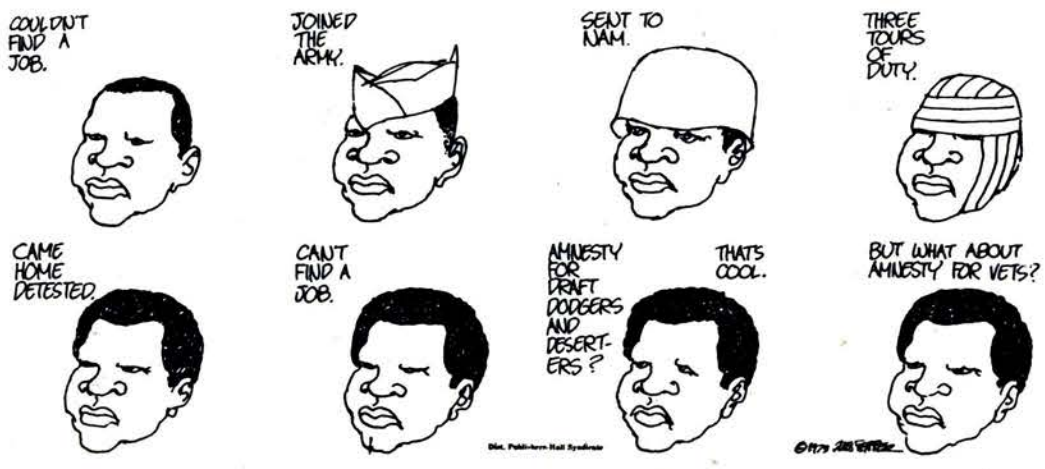
For many veterans, termination of military service only begins a long period in which he/she is harassed--denied employment, denied VA benefits--and stigmatized as the result of an administrative or punitive discharge. In 1972 alone, 16% of all US Army discharges were less-than-honorable: 52,691 people received administrative or punitive discharges! In contrast, only 2755 applications for review of discharge were filed before all of the service discharge review boards; of these, only 413, roughly 14% were upgraded.

Most of the veterans affected by less-than-honorable discharges did not conform to the image projected by US military code and custom. A bad discharge has become the military's chosen and deliberate response: to third world people who resist white rule and white definition of social roles and behavior; to political activists who work while in the military to advocate and promote change from within the institutional structure; to drug user/abusers--the majority of whom began taking drugs while in the military; and to homosexuality, although federal courts have ruled that off duty/off base activities are not subject to the Universal Code of Military Justice, the military continues its machismo crusade. Actions by servicepeople "to the prejudice of the good order and discipline in the armed forces" (UCMJ Art. 134) are punished by means of the discharge process (under threat of court-martial), although, in the opinion of Judge Tom Clark (US Circ. Court of Appeals), "the only apparent purpose is to act as a catch-all for varied types of unforseen conduct not otherwise covered by the code."

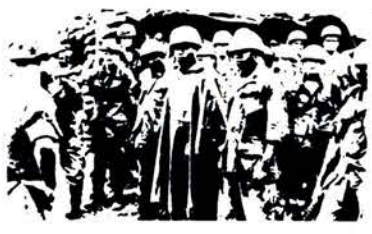


VVAW/WSO, as part of its campaign for amnesty, has initiated a Discharge Upgrading Project (DUP) in San Francisco. The DUP will counsel veterans with less-than-honorable discharges and file for discharge review. VVAW/WSO hopes to over-load the reviewing process in Washington, thus paving the way for a class-action suit against all less-than-honorable discharges. The only solution to this problem is the institution of a single, universal discharge given all veterans retroactively.

For information and help, write the following:
Discharge Upgrading Project
P. O. Box 151
San Francisco, Calif. 94103



GI REVOLTS
The Breakdown of the U.S. Army in Vietnam



By Richard Boyle 40¢

GI resistance was one of the major forces behind the withdrawal of U.S. ground troops from Vietnam.

GI Revolts contains two eyewitness accounts of GI resistance to the war and the Army in Vietnam. One is about a Black medic who shot his racist top sergeant.

The second is about the mutiny of a company of infantrymen at Firebase Pace near the Cambodian border in 1971.

40¢--Bulk rates available from:
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GAINESVILLE

TRIAL DATE MOVED TO JULY 31

"Hmmmm, yes . . . I did flunk a little boy named Nixon once, in English . . . why?

Pre-trial hearings for the Gainesville trial were held before U. S. District Court Judge Winston Arnow in Pensacola, Fla., on June 20-23 and on July 6th. During these hearings it became apparent that the Gainesville 8 will be tried in an overtly hostile court.

A major thrust of the defense is to show the relationship between the trial of the Eight and the Watergate scandal. The defense has been attempting to show that the trial is yet another piece of the conspiracy on the part of the Committee to Re-elect the President to cover up its crimes in the Watergate break-ins and buggings. Nevertheless, Judge Arnow has overuled every attempt to tie this trial in with the Watergate scandal. Arnow feels that the trial is not, under any circumstances a political trial. He even went so far as to quash the subpoenas of those witnesses called to testify in connection with the Watergate conspiracy and attempted frame-up of the Gainesville 8

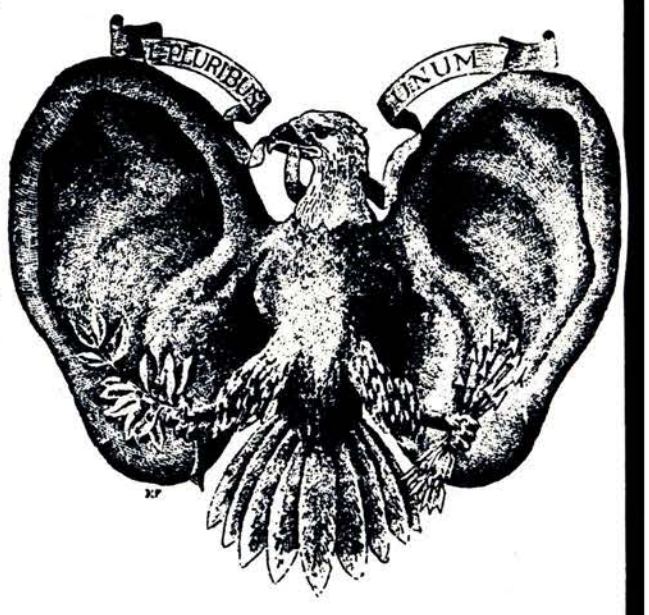
Arnow has similarly opposed all attempts by the defense to prove the use of illegal electronic surveillance in the case. He summarily refused to allow witnesses from the U. S. Dept of Justice, the FBI, and other federal agencies to testify. Guy Goodwin, the government prosecutor, falsely denied the existence of any government record of surveillance on the Gainesville 8. Only after two instances of federal electronic surveillance were revealed by other sources did Goodwin reluctantly admit their existence. Despite Goodwin's admission, Arnow maintained that "there is nothing in the record to show me there is any illegal electronic surveillance in this case."

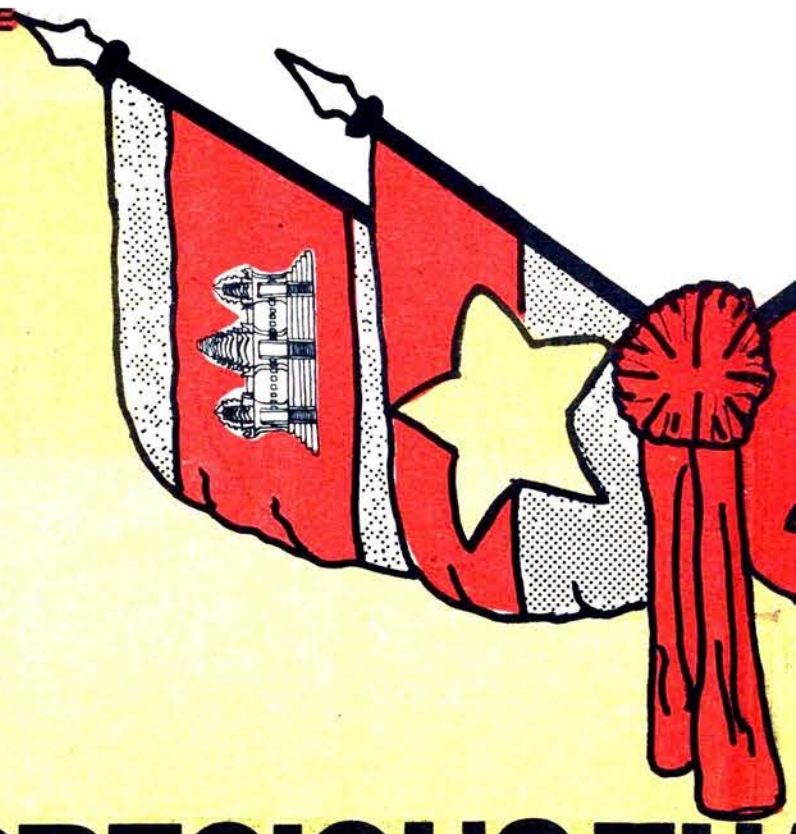
The changing of the trial date from July 17th to July 31st, took place at the June 20-23 hearings. The reason for this was that Arnow wanted to hold the July 6th hearings on possible contempt citations against the defense and their attorneys. Arnow is still considering implementing various injunctions to prevent the defendants from creating an "undue" amount of attention around the trial. Given the history of conspiracy trials the best defense one has is to publicly expose the truth of the case and try to amass as much public support as possible. The alternative is to allow the government to hold their witch-hunting conspiracy trials whenever they feel like it. Arnow, however, feels that the demonstrations being called by VVAW/WSO to coincide with the beginning of the trial would "impede" the process of justice as they would be "tampering with the jurors."

Thus, at the July 6th hearing, motions were heard to consider court actions against the Eight. After testimony that the defense was not involved in planning the demonstration in Gainesville, but that the national organization of VVAW/WSO was doing the planning, Goodwin began an illegal cross-examination of the witness which ignored the question of jury tampering. Goodwin asked for all the names of all the people working on the action in support of the Gainesville 8. As this was a clear violation of 1st amendment rights of freedom of association, the witness refused to answer any of Goodwin's questions. Resulting from this repressive line of Goodwin's questioning, an outburst arose among the VVAW/WSO members in the courtroom. Six of the defendants and one other VVAW/WSO member were found in contempt and immediately sent to jail. Arnow later had them brought back to the courtroom and suspended their sentences with a proviso that they be on good behavior until the end of the trial.

Arnow's arrogance was not only directed against VVAW/WSO. He tried to even things up with contempt citations against CBS. A CBS courtroom artist had previously drawn sketches from memory of the courtroom scenes. While taking photos in court is illegal, drawing sketches is not. Nonetheless, Arnow fined CBS $500 plus costs. Clearly, Winston Arnow does not care for the press, or the public, closely scrutinizing this trial.

Overall, the general atmosphere in the courtroom is one of extreme hostility as Arnow constantly belittles and harasses defense attorneys. At one point, he even threatened the attorneys with a $25 fine for each question they asked that he didn't like. A defendant noted that "justice might get a little expensive at that rate." Because of Arnow's attitude, one of the defense attorneys has asked the judge to step aside in the trial. Arnow's reply was that "there is no hostility" and "the court will not disqualify itself." The truth is that Arnow really isn't the problem. The problem is that the courts are controlled by people such as those in the Nixon gang, the Mitchells, Haldemans, and Guy Goodwins. In any case, our defense is and always has been the people. The more people that are made aware of what's going on with the trial, the less ability the government will have to continue to blatantly subvert the judicial system.





NOTHING IS MORE PRECIOUS THA

"Fighting side by side with the brother Vietnamese and Lao peoples...and receiving staunch and multivarious support from the People's Republic of China...as well as the militant solidarity of all peace, justice and freedom loving countries and peoples in the world including the American people, our just cause will certainly triumph."

- Mr. Ieng Sary
Inland Branch Special Envoy
National United Front of Cambodia

"We will strive to continue to win the sympathy and support of...peace-loving people all over the world including the progressive people in America for the struggle against the U.S. imperialists for national salvation of our people and the peoples of Laos and Cambodia til its total victory."

- Madame Nguyen Thi Binh
Foreign Minister
Provisional Revolutionary Government

THE PEOPLES OF VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA HAVE FOR MORE THAN A DECADE BEEN WAGING AN INTENSIFIED WAR AGAINST THE DOMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THE WAR HAS DESTROYED MUCH OF THE LAND, KILLED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, DISPLACED MILLIONS OF FAMILIES AND HAS CREATED A SITUATION BY WHICH THE HISTORIC SOLIDARITY OF THE THREE NATIONS HAS BEEN FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY THE PATRIOTIC DETERMINATION OF THE THREE PEOPLES TO RID THEMSELVES OF THE MOST BARBARIC FOREIGN PRESENCE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

THE DETERMINATION OF THE LIBERATION FORCES, THE CORRECT POLITICAL OUTLOOK OF THE PRG, THE DRV, THE PATHET LAO AND THE KHYMER ROUGE, THE VICTORIOUS EFFORTS ON THE BATTLEFIELDS AND THE LOVE OF THE PEOPLE HAVE FURTHER ADVANCED THE LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN THE EYES OF ALL PEACE LOVING PEOPLES IN THE WORLD.

FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ONLY INTERVENED IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDOCHINA BUT HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED ITS PRESENCE IN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA AND IN ASIA. IT CONTINUES TO EXPLORE AND EXPAND ITS FOREIGN MARKETS WHILE KNOWINGLY AND PURPOSELY EXPLOITING THESE NATIONS FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS ABROAD.

THE LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN AFRICA IN LATIN AMERICA AND IN ASIA HAVE LEARNED FROM THE VICTORIES OF THE INDOCHINESE. THEY HAVE LEARNED THAT DE-

TERMINATION FOR INDEP
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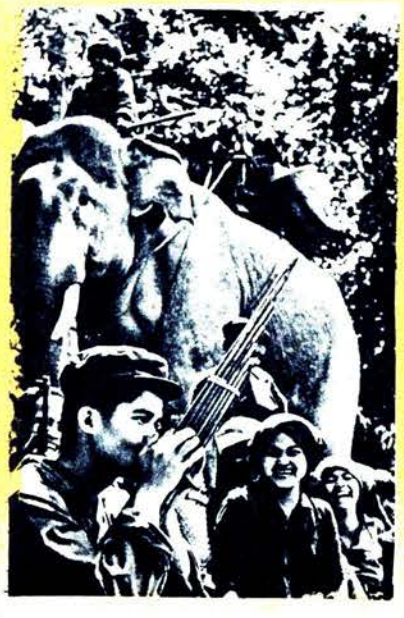

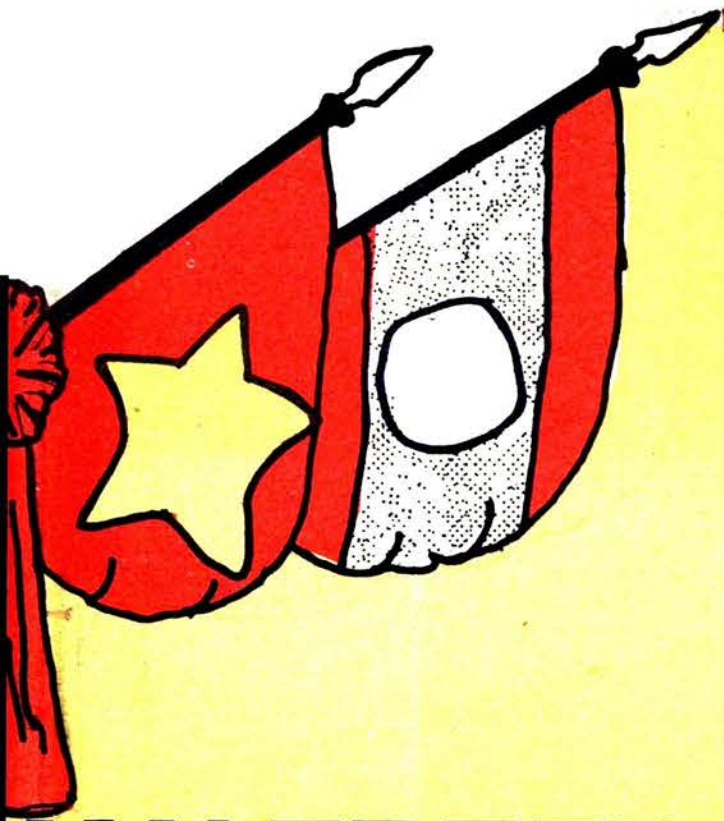

HAN FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE

HO CHI MINH

"In these historic days, we are more than ever convinced of the fact that the three peoples of Indochina are linked by the same destiny and that the fraternal and unbreakable friendship of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia has been forged by the blood shed in the struggle against the common enemy for their independence and freedom.

- Prof. Hoang Minh Gian
Minister of Culture
Democratic Republic of Vietnam

"Let our people strengthen solidarity with the socialist countries, the national liberation movements, the peace forces in the world, particularly the solidarity with the brother Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples, in order to completely shatter the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression in Indochina."

- Prince Souphanouvong
President Central Committee
Lao Patriotic Front

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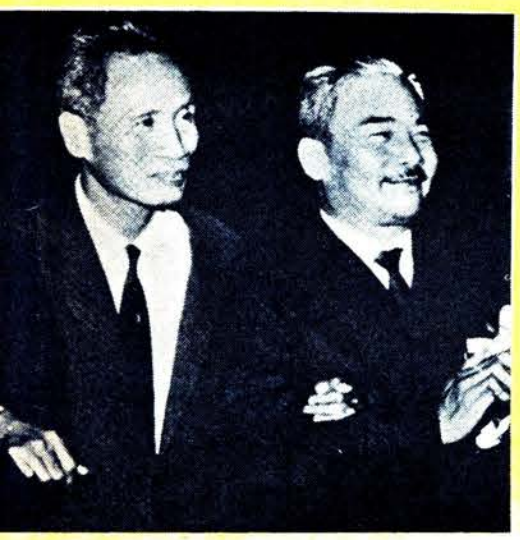
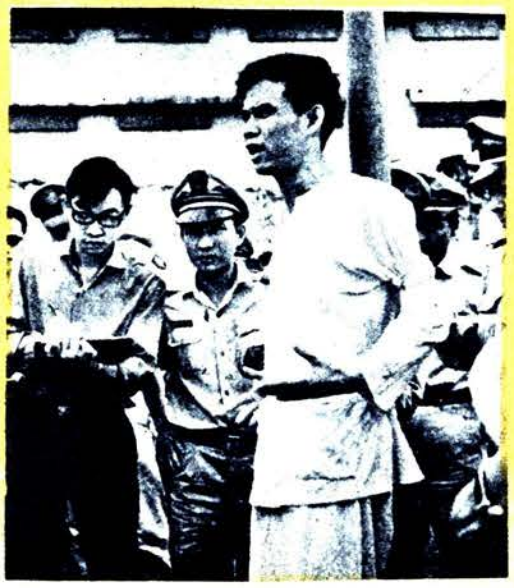
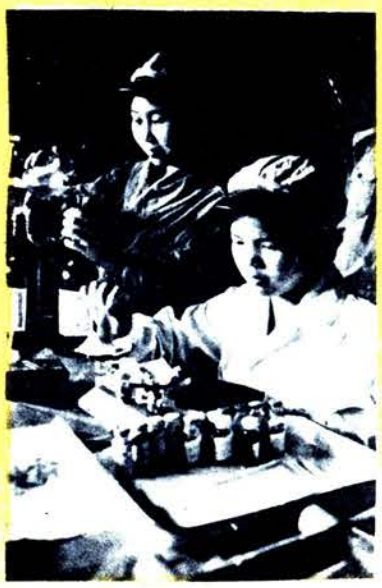
WE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE LEARNED THE MOST FROM VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT OUR NATION WAS WRONG, AS WE WITNESSED THE CRIMES PERPETRATED ON THE INDOCHINESE BY THE U.S. MILITARY. WE WITNESSED TWO AMERICAN PRESIDENTS DESTROYED BY THEIR OWN LIES AND ACTIONS; SCORES OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, ACCOMPLICES TO PRESIDENTIAL CRIMES, DEFEND AND CARRY OUT THOSE ORDERS. WE HAVE SEEN THE LOSS OF JOBS, THE SOARING INFLATION, THE DWINDLING DOLLAR, THE WAGE FREEZES AND WATER - GATE. WE HAVE SEEN RACISM BLATANTLY MANIFEST ITSELF IN THE LACK OF CONCERN FOR YELLOW BODIES AND WE HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT THIS RACISM EXISTS AND SUBVERTS OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER.

THE WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS OPENED OUR EYES, HAS MADE US LEARN THAT WE TRULY LIVE IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE STRUGGLE WE ARE WAGING HAS BECOME IMPORTANT FOR US AND FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY WE HAVE LEARNED BY THE EXAMPLE OF THE LAOTIANS, THE CAMBODIANS AND THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLES THAT THROUGH UNITY COMES STRUGGLE AND THROUGH STRUGGLE COMES FINAL VICTORY.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY







EDITORIAL

Last month President Nixon and the United States Congress 'compromised on a bill that set the date of August 15th for the cessation of all military operations in Southeast Asia. Once again, we are asked to believe that 'peace is at hand.' Through the years we have heard this statement made many times, starting in 1965 with the 'light at the end of the tunnel' line.

We have seen the administration of both Johnson and Nixon promise peace and in reality deliver war and death. It is time that we accept the word of the government for what it is: blatant lies and contempt for the memory of all people.

Will the war end on the 15th? We don't believe it and we have history to back up this belief. In March, 1968 Johnson announced peace talks which lasted for five years through the subversion of the American delegations. Peace was announced many times during Nixon's first term; using it for re-election and then bombing Hanoi and Haiphong with an unprecedented air attack of B-52s. Once the agreement was signed, the US violated it daily. In Laos, after the agreement was signed, the US answered with violations: bombing and support for insurgent troops. In Cambodia bombing has occured for every day in the last six months.

So the war will not end. We then must answer with loud militant action and with unceasing motion until the President and the Congress recognize that the American people will no longer tolerate their criminal actions.

August is the month of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is the month that George and Jonathan Jackson were murdered. It is the month when we cannot allow the war to continue. Be prepared for the 15th and don't be fooled again.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

"I have surrendered all hope of happiness for myself in this life to the prospect of effecting some improvement in our circumstances as a whole. I have a plan. I will give of myself until it proves our making or my end."

GEORGE JACKSON

GEORGE JACKSON

On August 21, 1971, George Jackson was assassinated by prison gurads at San Quentin. He was serving his tenth year for a one to life term for a $70 robbery. He was the author of two books; Solidad Brothers and Blood In My Eye. He was on trial along with John Clutchette, and Fleeta Drumgo for the alleged murder of a prison guard, (both of the other defendants were completely absolved of the crime by a jury six months later.),

He was also one of the main leaders of the prison movement; a man that spoke not only of the need for change in prison, but for the need of change in the outside society. Because of this George was killed by the state of California. We remember George Jackson this month, and the life he led, the future he saw and the words he lfet to guide us.

"I don't want to die and leave a few sad songs and a hump in the ground as my only monument. I want to leave a world that is liberated from trash, pollution, racism, nation states, nation state wars and armies, from pomp, bigotry, parochialism, a thousand brands of untruth, and licentious, usurious, economics. If there is any basis for the belief in the universality of man, then we will find it in this struggle against the enemy of mankind."

"There will be a special page in the book of life for the men who have crawled back from the grave. This page will tell of utter defeat, ruin, passivity, and subjection in one breath, and in the next, overwhelming victory and fulfillment. So take care of yourself, and hold on."

GEORGE JACKSON LIVES

An excellent book besides the two written by George is Comrade George, An Investigation into the life, political thought, and assassination of George Jackson. $2.00 per copy, plus 15¢ mailing. Red Prison Movement, Hovey Street Press, 1255 Cambridge, Mass. 02139. This book is free to prisoners.

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Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Winter Soldier Organization

Objectives

1. To demand an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, planes, and military and economic aid from Southeast Asia. We cannot allow one more human being to be killed in Southeast Asia. We support as a basis for the cessation of these hostilities the various peace proposals of the People of Southeast Asia or such future plans as they develop based upon their right of self-determination and actual control of their own destinies.

2. To demand the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States Government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. This includes the maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination, and the theft of the natural resources of other countries. The United States should make reparations in a program acceptable to the Indochinese for all of the damage done by the United States.

3. To demand that all active-duty servicemen and women, reservists and national guardsmen be afforded the same rights that are guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights that are presently denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We are appalled that our active-duty GIs are treated as less than first class citizens. We endorse the efforts of our active-duty sisters and brothers in their struggle to democratize the military.

4. To support all military personnel refusing to serve against their consciences in wars at home and abroad. We demand that Congress enact legislation for the immediate repatriation of those brothers and sisters who are in prison or in self-exile by reason of their refusal to serve in the military. It must also involve an end to all repression and a freeing of all political prisoners.

5. To demand there be no distinctions as to types of discharges and that a single type of discharge be issued, and that this be retroactive. We also demand all veterans receive all rights and benefits under the VA; and that compensation for disabilities be based solely upon the degree of disability for veterans and their families, without regard to sex, race, rank or length of service.

6. To make clear that the United States has never undertaken an extensive, open investigation of American war crimes in Indochina. In its war in Indochina, the principles of Nuremberg have been violated. As active-duty and former GIs, we recognize the responsibility and guilt of the individual soldier to refrain from committing war crimes. We also recognize that the responsibility and guilt of war crimes committed in the name of America lies with our policy makers at all levels.

7. Resolved to fight racism, to show Americans that our society is permeated by racism, which manipulates whites into viewing non-whites as inferior or less than human. This racism pushes Third World People through inferior schools to inferior jobs and into combat arms. Thus Third World People are sent off to die in disproportionately high numbers as we kill Asians indiscriminately. We also demand the US military recognize its complicity in America's domestic and international racism.

8. Resolved to fight sexism, to show that sexism plays a major part in promoting war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which forces an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subservient sexual objects, and which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This institutionalized sexism channels women into unfulfilling, lower paying jobs which are servile in nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of morality wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining servicewomen as subordinate and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization and within ourselves.

9. To support the democratic right of Americans to unionize and strike to protect their income and safeguard their employment. We consider all legislation designed to suppress these rights, including mandatory arbitration, to be illegal and not in the interests of the American working people. We also demand full employment for all Americans, including free educational and vocational training for all who need or want it. We refuse to participate in the efforts being made to separate us from other working people, making veterans enemies by giving us the charade of employment priority. We condemn this as a method of encouraging enlistment by the false promise of employment after service. We also condemn the use of active-duty GIs, Reservists and National Guardsmen as strikebreakers.

10. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW/WSO is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic, social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.

Vietnam Veterans Against The War/ Winter Soldier Organization
827 W Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657, tel.(312) 935-2129

_____ I would like to Join VVAW/WSO

_____ I am an active-duty GI

_____ I am currently in prison

_____ I am enclosing $____ to support your group

Name _____

Address _____

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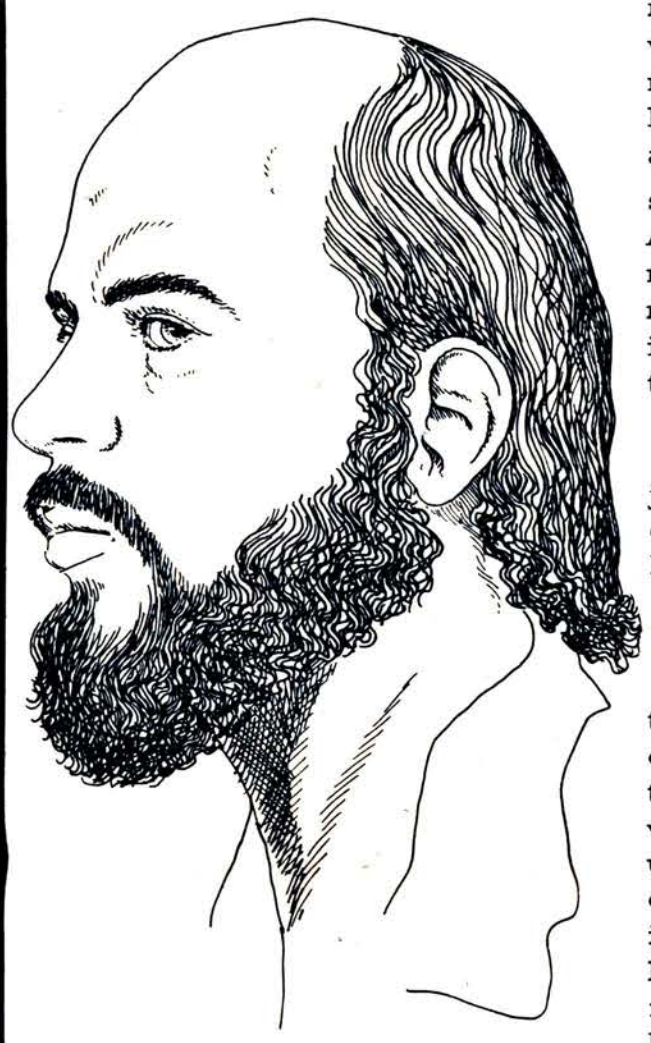
CHARGED WITH ARSON & MURDER

KARL IS BACK



On August 24, 1970 at 3:42 AM, an explosion rocked the Army Mathematics Research Center at the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison, Wisconsin. The explosion destroyed the center, long a target of anti-war activities, and resulted in the death of one researcher working that night. Shortly afterwards, FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover, announced in Washington that the bombing was the work of the New Year's Gang and he identified the members of the gang as Leo Burt, David Fine, Dwight and Karl Armstrong.

In February 1972, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested Karl, who was working as a lathe operator in a Toronto machine tool shop. In June of 1972, extradition hearings were held in Canada in order to send Karl back to face charges of first degree murder and four counts of arson The Canadian Extradition Act states that 'No fugitive is liable to surrender...if it appears (a) that the offense in respect of which proceedings are taken under this Act is one of a political character, or (b) that such proceedings are being taken under with a view to prosecute or punish him for an offense of a political character.

The prosecution called many witnesses who testified that the bombing was not political and that the anti-war movement was nothing but 'students letting off steam', and 'street dancing and general rejoicing.' In spite of strong evidence of systematic anti-AMRC activities and strong political movement, the judge ruled. 'It does not seem reasonable...that the bombings would have any political connotations...

Railroaded through Canadian injustice, Karl was extradicted to Wisconsin, in chains, on March 8, 1973. He now sits in jail awaiting trial.

The prosecution will try to prove that Karl knowingly killed the researcher and that the research done by the Math Center was not related to war technology. The truth is that the university police received a phone call prior to the bombing and ignored it. The truth is that the AMRC at Madison helped with developing infrared sensors and calculated 'the probability of survival of a subterranean target under air attack', meaning to the Indochinese that services, such as schools and hospitals forced to go underground were no longer safe. It cooperated with the Rand Corp. in perfecting long-range bomber programs and with Bell Labs' work on the Spartan Sprint anti-ballistic missile system.

The research done at this Math Center and the bombing of Indochina are not on trial. The systems of death calculated at the center and the calculated destruction of Indochina are still with us. As Karl is being tried for an accidental death and the destruction of a tool for the war machine, the real criminals are still free; those responsible for the death and destruction of millions of Indochinese. The bombing of the Math Center was a blow to the continued presence of the U.S. government in Southeast Asia and in Latin America. For this we should be thankful. And as Karl sits in jail, Richard Nixon sits in the White House continuing his policies of imperialism abroad and exploitation of Americans at home.

The trial of Karl Armstrong will speak to the question of whether resistance to an illegal war is illegal. The trial will focus on the resistance of all anti-war protesters. If Karl is found guilty, then we are all guilty. For each of us resisted the war in our own way. Some of us signed petitions, marched and rallied or lay down in the streets and were arrested in acts of civil disobedience. Some of us came home from the war and testified to the crimes of the United States military in Vietnam. Some of us went to Canada or Europe to escape the draft or the military and some of us received less-than-honorable discharges for protesting the war, racism or oppression while still in the military. Some died at Kent and Jackson States. And yet others resisted by destroying the machines of the United States government; the banks, the ships, the draft files and the math centers.

Each of us protested the war in our way and all of us were correct. The trial of Karl Armstrong will focus on anti-war resistance. Each of us must support Karl Armstrong, for in doing so we will be supporting the self-determination of the Indochinese peoples and we will be supporting the right to fight against the crimes of the United States government.

Funds are urgently needed by the committee to continue their work on this trial. Contributions can be sent to the Karl Armstrong Defense Committee, PO Box 2521, Madison, Wisconsin 53701. Information can also be obtained from this address.

BOYCOTT FARAH PANTS

Farah Slacks is the largest manufacturer of men's and boy's slacks in this country. This dubious honor was earned by relying on 50 years of sweatshop history, i.e. average pay of $1.70 an hour, no retirement benefits, no sick leave, no vehicle for the redress of grievances. Farah employs over 10,000 workers in seven plants in Texas and one in New Mexico. 95% of the workers are Chicano, and 85% are women. Nearly one year ago, several workers were fired for legal union organizing activities. This triggered the walk-out of over 3,000 Farah workers and fostered the strike demand for the right to union representation.

Willie Farah has answered the strikers' demands by surrounding his plants with barbed wire, armed guards, and telescopic cameras. The court has issued an injunction against mass picketing and over 1,000 arrest warrants have been issued. These actions have not intimidated the striking workers, and they remain determined not to go back to work without their union.

Support for the strike has spread throughout the country in the form of a boycott. The UAW, Postal Workers, United Farm Workers, Maritime Union, and Teamsters have all come out in support of the strike and ensuing boycott of Farah garments. Support has even come from overseas. The Hong Kong Textile Workers Union sent cancelled, unfinished clothing products from the Farah plant to their clothing distributors.

The nationwide boycott of Farah pants has been a highly successful means of resistance. Farah's annual report discloses that it lost $8.3 million in the past fiscal year compared with a profit of $6 million in the preceeding year. Sales were down $10 million.

VVAW/WSO has consistently support the Farah strike and boycott and we ask all of our friends to do the same. Judging from the drop in monetary gain of the Farah Manufacturing Company, Willie Farah will have no choice but to meet the demands of these strikers. With our help, these workers will win. If you desire to make a donation to the strike or wish to receive more information, contact: Farah Distress Fund, P.O. Box 998, El Paso, Texas 77041.

HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI DAYS

On August 6, 1945 the United States Air Force dropped the first atomic bomb, in wartime use, on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, on August 9th, the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

The bomb dropped on Hiroshima resulted in the immediate death of approximately 66,000 people and the injured numbered near 69,000. Ninety-eight percent of all the buildings in the city were destroyed. In Nagasaki, 39,000 were killed and 25,000 injured.

After the second bomb fell the Japanese government announced that it would surrender to the American forces. Thus, ended the second World War. Military officials in the United States agreed that the Japanese would have surrendered by the end of 1945, had the bombs not been dropped. Why then were the bombs used? It was done in order to test the effects of nuclear weapons on human beings. One official stated that the effects were greater than expected.

Since that time, thousands of Japanese have been used as guinea pigs for research teams studying the results of the weapons. To this day, people are dying because of the bombs.

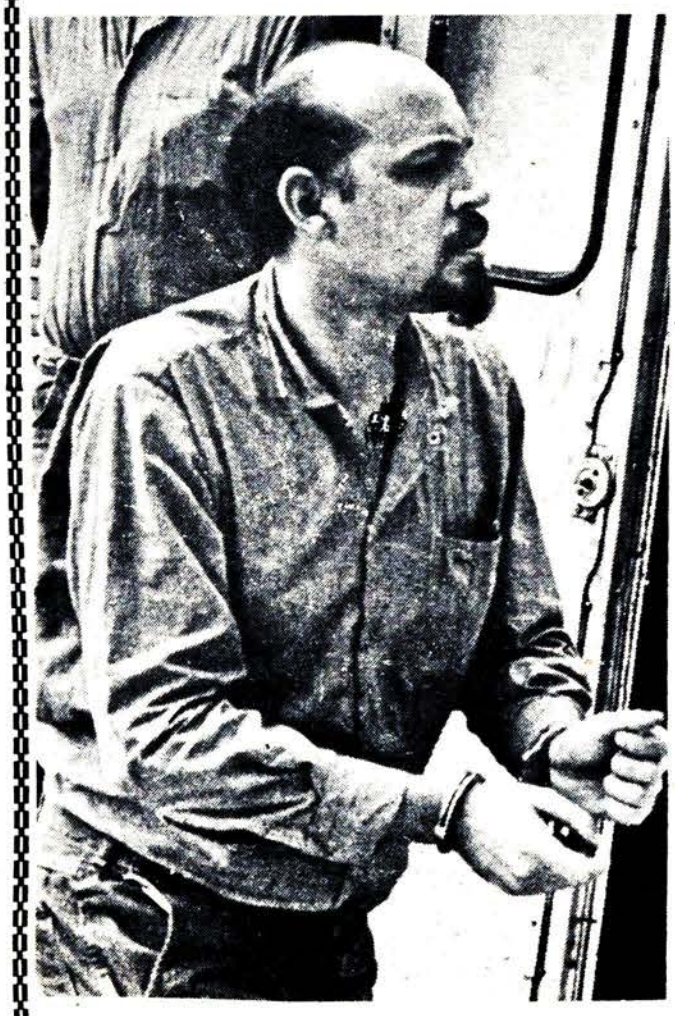
Nuclear weapons remain the prime strategy of the American military. The results of the research have bettered the development of nuclear weapons.

In the Indochina war, again the US military tested its weapons at the expense of the Vietnamese, the Laotians and the Cambodians. As was the case in Japan the US continues to kill and exploit the people of the world for the advancement of American business.

On August 6th and August 9th we should stop and think about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and we should realize that as long as the United States continues its foreign policy as it has since the bombing of Hiroshima, that there will continue to be wars and there will continue to be human guinea pigs in preparation for the next one.

LAWTON TRIAL BEGINS

Repression & Resistance



The second trial of Gary Lawton and Larrie Gardiner began in Riverside, California on July 5th. The first trial of Lawton, Gardiner and Nehemiah Jackson was conducted in Indio, and ended in a victory for the defense. The jury was hung, 9-3 for acquittal, with one of the jurors declaring: "My personal opinion is that the murderers are still at large and they've got the wrong men."

Gary and Larrie are being tried for the murder of two police officers which occured in Riverside over two years ago. After spending these past two years in jail for a crime they never committed, Lawton and Gardiner are once again facing the system of "justice" in this country. The atmosphere of racism which was present in the Indio trial has followed this case to Riverside, as has the extreme political repression. Because of Lawton's political activity within the Riverside community, the prosecution is zeroing-in on Gary, dreaming up anything which will convict this highly respected community organizer.

During the opening remarks of the trial, the prosecution characterized Lawton as a man of violence who surrounded himself with violent people. He stated that Lawton was a self-appointed black radical trying to disrupt the community of Riverside. These statements were made during the first 15 minutes of the trial; and at this time, the defense moved for a mistrial. The judge denied the mistrial motion, but did manage to warn the prosecutor to stay away from personality characterizations of Gary.

It is already clear that the prosecution has no evidence which will stand up in a court. The prosecution's witnesses have already succeeded in contradicting their own testimony, vascillating in their own statements, and generally, offering little in the way of credibility. For example, Leadell Lee, the officer who was first on the scene of the murder, has testified at the grand jury, two preliminary hearings, and the Indio trial that he hadn't seen anybody at the scene of the crime. It's strange that Mr. Lee's memory improves with time, especially after the passage of two years. It may also be worth noting that Mr. Lee is now a special agent with the FBI and is working in Washington, D. C.

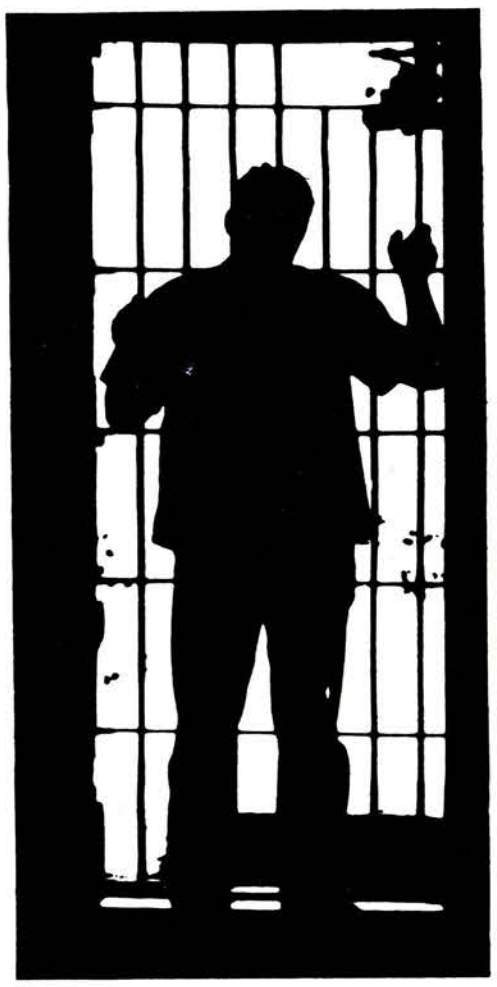
Another witness for the prosecution that has proved to be beneficial to the defense is Rusty Torres. He was standing with friends in the parking lot at Emerson School when the two officers were shot. He testified that he did see men running away from the scene of the crime, but he couldn't tell if they were white or black. Rusty had played softball and other sports with Gary before the shooting, and testified that none of the people he saw were Gary because Lawton is taller, heavier, and older than the people he saw leaving the scene of the crime.

The judge is using very repressive tactics on the two defendants which are above and beyond the general atmosphere of the trial. For example, he has denied Lawton and Gardiner their Constitutional right to approach the bench with their lawyers for private consultations. The judge's reason being that he thinks the defendants are too slow in getting up there. Can the court really be losing that much time, or does the judge simply feel that the defendants need have no word in the manner in which their lives are being tried?

Judging from the courtroom maneuvering of Lawton's trial, it is clear that racism and repression are alive and well in the Riverside area. This may also be evidenced by recent police actions in the outside community. A few weeks ago in San Bernardino, a 17 year old black man was shot in the back by a police officer. The man was visiting a convalescent home at the time, when he was approached by an officer. The young man ran and was shot to death for this action. The young man was unarmed and no crime had been committed.

This sort of police repression must be stopped. The freeing of Gary Lawton will be the first step in gaining freedom for the people. Also, Gary's freedom will come from the hard work of the people aware of the frame-up of this man. We must work together and offer our support to Gary and Larrie. A booklet has been published which gives further information about the trial: "Frame-up In the Desert," for 35¢. Also, please send the desperately needed donations to:

Riverside Defense Committee
P.O. Box 5154
San Bernardino, Calif. 92412



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